

# COMARE Subcommittees, Subgroups & Working Groups 2026

## COMARE Subcommittees

<b>Type of group</b>	Subcommittee
<b>Name</b>	Cardio- / Cerebro-vascular Effects Subcommittee (CCES)
<b>Date established</b>	February 2021
<b>Ongoing or time-limited</b>	Time limited – completes on the submission of a report to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	<i>To advise COMARE on the available evidence of a causal association between cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease and low level radiation exposure, and to inform COMARE of the health implications for the UK population and further research priorities.</i>
<b>Remit</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide advice to the DHSC on the cardiovascular and cerebrovascular health implications for the UK population from defined low-level radiation exposure.</li> <li>2. To review the available evidence of an association between low level radiation exposure and cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease – including epidemiological, mechanistic and biological studies for both medical and occupational exposures which would fall within a defined low-level dose range.</li> </ol>
<b>Membership format</b>	COMARE members + formally invited external experts + assessors
<b>Members</b>	Professor F de Vocht (Chair) Dr J Barrett Professor J Harrison Dr M Hill Dr C Martin Dr R McNally Professor P Pharoah Dr K Raj
<b>Assessors</b>	DHSC
<b>Meeting format</b>	Online meetings
<b>Meeting frequency</b>	Held as required – usually 2-3 per year
<b>Output</b>	Report to be submitted to DHSC

<b>Type of group</b>	Subcommittee
<b>Name</b>	Light and Health Subcommittee (LAHS)
<b>Date established</b>	April 2025
<b>Ongoing or time-limited</b>	Time limited – completes on the submission of a report to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	<i>To advise COMARE on the available evidence of the health issues associated with artificial light, and to inform COMARE on the need for further review</i>
<b>Remit</b>	1. To review the available evidence regarding the impact of artificial light on human health and determine what is known and what further information is required to provide evidence-based guidelines regarding the impact of artificial light on human health within the built environment.
<b>Membership format</b>	COMARE members + formally invited external experts + assessors
<b>Members</b>	Professor R Foster (Chair) Dr C Westcott (Lay member) Dr M Little Professor R Lucas Professor T Erren Professor S Peirson Dr P Lewis
<b>Assessors</b>	DHSC WG UKHSA
<b>Secretariat</b>	UKHSA
<b>Meeting format</b>	Online and in-person meetings
<b>Meeting frequency</b>	Held as required – usually 2-3 per year
<b>Output</b>	Report to be submitted to DHSC

<b>Type of group</b>	Subcommittee
<b>Name</b>	UV Sunbed Subcommittee
<b>Date established</b>	July 2025
<b>Ongoing or time-limited</b>	Time limited – completes on the submission of a report to the four UK health departments
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	<i>To advise COMARE on the available evidence of the health impact of UV artificial tanning devices in the UK, and to inform COMARE on the need for further research and review.</i>
<b>Remit</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the 13<sup>th</sup> COMARE Report recommendations against more recent guidance and reiterate the recommendations accordingly.</li> <li>2. Review the level of implementation of the recommendations across the UK.</li> <li>3. Review COMARE's position regarding a potential total ban on sunbeds.</li> </ol>
<b>Membership format</b>	COMARE members + formally invited external experts + assessors
<b>Members</b>	<p>Professor L Rhodes (Chair) - <i>retired</i></p> <p>Professor B Diffey (Co-chair)</p> <p>Professor J Harrison</p> <p>Dr C Martin</p> <p>Dr R Kemp</p> <p>Dr N Cridland</p>
<b>Assessors</b>	<p>DHSC</p> <p>SG</p> <p>WG</p> <p>DoH NI</p> <p>UKHSA</p>
<b>Secretariat</b>	UKHSA
<b>Meeting format</b>	Online meetings
<b>Meeting frequency</b>	Held as required – usually 2-3 per year
<b>Output</b>	Report to be submitted to the four UK health departments

<b>Type of group</b>	Subcommittee
<b>Name</b>	Cancer Risk Subcommittee
<b>Date established</b>	December 2025
<b>Ongoing or time-limited</b>	Time limited – completes on the submission of a report to DHSC
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	<i>To advise COMARE on the available evidence on cancer risks from low doses and/or low dose rates of ionising radiation, comment on likely implications in terms of international recommendations and protection practice, and inform the Committee on the need for further research and review.</i>
<b>Remit</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the available evidence from key epidemiological studies, referring to the forthcoming UNSCEAR review and more recent publications (from 2020), assessing the potential impact of confounding and other types of bias on results. Consider implications in terms of ICRP estimates of risk and detriment, with emphasis on risk estimates relevant to the UK population. To include: judgements on dose-response relationships, the effect of dose and dose rate on risks, and difference in risk between males and females and with age at exposure.</li> <li>2. Review key experimental studies informing on biological mechanisms of radiation action in the initiation and promotion of cancer, referring to the UNSCEAR (2021) review and more recent publications.</li> <li>3. Comment on implications for current UK protection practices and legislation, including reliance on LNT and ALARP, and the adequacy of protection using dose quantities as currently defined.</li> </ol>
<b>Membership format</b>	COMARE members + formally invited external experts + assessors
<b>Members</b>	<p>Professor A Berrington de Gonzalez (Chair)</p> <p>Professor J Harrison</p> <p>Dr G Heyes</p> <p>Dr S Terry</p> <p>Professor M Toledano</p> <p>Dr M Little</p> <p>Professor S Bouffler</p> <p>Professor R Wakeford</p> <p>Professor M Van Tongeren</p>
<b>Assessors</b>	DHSC
<b>Secretariat</b>	UKHSA
<b>Meeting format</b>	Online meetings
<b>Meeting frequency</b>	Held as required – usually 2-3 per year
<b>Output</b>	Report to be submitted to DHSC

## COMARE Working Groups

<b>Type of group</b>	Working Group
<b>Name</b>	Authorisations Working Group
<b>Date established</b>	Pre-2005
<b>Ongoing or time-limited</b>	Ongoing
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	<i>To uphold COMARE's standing commitment to advise on discharges of radioactive materials as and when applications are received for new or revised authorisations.</i>
<b>Remit</b>	1. To advise on draft authorisations and respond to relevant consultations and to keep the full Committee aware of its proceedings.
<b>Membership format</b>	COMARE members and past COMARE members
<b>Members</b>	Dr S McCready-Shea (Chair) Professor A Elliott Professor G Smith Professor R Wakeford
<b>Assessors</b>	None
<b>Secretariat</b>	UKHSA
<b>Meeting format</b>	No meetings are held. Work is completed through electronic correspondence.
<b>Meeting frequency</b>	N/A
<b>Output</b>	Updates to the full Committee Responses to consultations

<b>Type of group</b>	Working group
<b>Name</b>	Contaminations Working Group
<b>Date established</b>	July 2012
<b>Ongoing or time-limited</b>	Ongoing
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	<i>To advise COMARE, Government and the devolved administrations and agencies on the potential public health implications of instances of radioactive contamination of the environment. The CWG will ensure a consistency of approach in all instances and will recommend further investigations where necessary.</i>
<b>Remit</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Follow progress on the respective beach monitoring programmes submitted from Dounreay and Sellafield, noting the particles detected at each site.</li> <li>2. Follow progress on the monitoring work being undertaken at Dalgety Bay and on the remediation project at Dalgety Bay.</li> <li>3. Monitor information about the release of radioactive leachate from the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo (MSSS) at Sellafield and plans for its remediation.</li> </ol>
<b>Membership format</b>	COMARE members + past COMARE members + assessors
<b>Members</b>	<p>Professor D Read (Chair)</p> <p>Professor A Elliott</p> <p>Professor J Harrison</p> <p>Dr S McCready-Shea</p> <p>Professor G Smith</p> <p>Professor J Smith</p> <p>Professor R Wakeford</p>
<b>Assessors</b>	<p>EA</p> <p>FSA</p> <p>FSS</p> <p>NDA</p> <p>NRS</p> <p>Sellafield Ltd</p> <p>SEPA</p> <p>UKHSA</p>
<b>Secretariat</b>	UKHSA
<b>Meeting format</b>	Online and in person
<b>Meeting frequency</b>	Twice a year – usually in March and November
<b>Output</b>	<p>Updates to the full Committee</p> <p>Responses to consultations</p>

<b>Type of group</b>	Working Group
<b>Name</b>	EMF and Health Working Group (EAHWG)
<b>Date established</b>	August / September 2022
<b>Ongoing or time-limited</b>	Ongoing
<b>Draft Terms of Reference</b> (for review after 12 months)	<i>To advise COMARE on the health impacts and concerns associated with the exposure to EMFs. This includes reviewing available evidence on health effects and informing COMARE of the health implications for the UK population and further research priorities.</i>
<b>Remit</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss and comment on the matters within the UKHSA annual update on 'EMF and health', specifically addressing any implications for public health.</li> <li>2. Highlight to the Committee important published work on EMFs of relevance to public health.</li> <li>3. Review and comment on the health implications for the UK resulting from the WHO review when it is published.</li> <li>4. Identify research gaps on the health effects of EMFs important for the UK population.</li> </ol>
<b>Membership format</b>	COMARE members + formally invited external experts
<b>Members</b>	<p>Dr R Kemp (Chair)  Professor F de Vocht  Dr I Litchfield  Dr Z Sienkiewicz  Professor M Sperrin  Professor M Toledano  Dr C Westcott</p>
<b>Assessors</b>	None
<b>Secretariat</b>	UKHSA
<b>Meeting format</b>	Online meetings
<b>Meeting frequency</b>	A minimum of three per year
<b>Output</b>	Updates to the full Committee

<b>Type of group</b>	Working Group
<b>Name</b>	ICRP Recommendations Working Group (IRWG)
<b>Date established</b>	August / September 2022
<b>Ongoing or time-limited</b>	Ongoing
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	<i>To advise COMARE on the ICRP developments towards new recommendations, to inform COMARE of the associated health implications for the UK and also to maintain awareness of responses being formulated by other international and national groups.</i>
<b>Remit</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss and comment on output from ICRP and maintain awareness of outputs from other agencies relevant to the development of new international recommendations.</li> <li>2. Provide brief synopses to the Committee of developments regarding new recommendations, including synopses of important published work.</li> <li>3. Draft COMARE responses to ICRP public consultations on relevant reports.</li> <li>4. Comment on any implications of proposed changes, as appropriate, for public health in the UK, in due course.</li> </ol>
<b>Membership format</b>	COMARE members + formally invited external experts
<b>Members</b>	Dr S McCready-Shea (Chair) Professor J Harrison Dr M Hill Dr M Little Dr R McNally Professor G Smith Professor D Sutton Dr S Terry
<b>Assessors</b>	None
<b>Secretariat</b>	UKHSA
<b>Meeting format</b>	Online meetings
<b>Meeting frequency</b>	Held as required with a minimum of three per year
<b>Output</b>	Updates to the full Committee Responses to consultations